

and should any abstruse and difficult point be at first beyond your thorough comprehension, do not pass it over to be studied at some future moment, but endeavour to make yourself thoroughly master of its intricacies before you leave it; there may perhaps be some in the office with you, more advanced in their profession, and capable of directing you. *Never be too proud to ask for knowledge, or too conceited to learn thoroughly.* Superficial knowledge may enable you to rub through the duties of an office, but such knowledge will never make you that which I presume it is your wish to become eventually, thoroughly master of your profession, and capable of directing the movements of others. To enable you to do this you must understand thoroughly how to dissect a building, commencing with the excavation you may require, the putting in of foundations, whether of concrete or of any other substance, and afterwards the carrying up of your walls above the ground, the quantity of timber, whether of oak or fir, &c., carpentry and joinery in connection with it; plastering, masonry, plumbing, painting, ironmongery, and all other details requisite for finishing your building. You will find that it will save you much trouble to have by you tables of the various scantlings of timbers priced at the existing charge per foot, cube: they are handy for reference when "moving out" an estimate, and save the labour of calculation. If your memory be not retentive, it is also well to keep classed memoranda of the charges of the various branches; it is incalculable the saving of time such memoranda effect. Much useful information is to be derived from either Laxton's or Skyring's detailed works on this subject, and which contain (beside many useful observations) the method of measuring work employed by the several trades in connection with architecture.—J. B. ROBERTS.

EXTENSION OF BUILDING SOCIETIES.

SIR,—I have noticed and admired, your praiseworthy efforts to create and foster a more genial and extensive bond of union among the productive classes of society, and am sure they cannot have been in vain. Indeed I cannot help believing that from the very rapid and increasing demand for literary, scientific, and other useful information, there is gradually growing up a greater desire to unite in the common bond all classes coming under the general denomination, *industrious or productive classes*, and perhaps a more favourable moment than the present cannot be chosen for assisting in carrying out this great and paramount object, the want of which has been the cause of great and extensive suffering. I refer *first* to the contemplated reduction of those imposts which have for years, retarded and crippled the talent and best energies and resources of the manufacturing classes more especially. *Secondly*, to the wide-spreading desire on the part of the same class of persons, to avail themselves of the important advantages which "building societies" hold out, and it is to be regretted that such societies have not been brought more generally within the reach and control of the humbler classes, for whom, it appears to me, the Act 6 & 7 Wm. IV., c. 32, was more particularly intended—but who in fact have been, I fear, to a large extent excluded by reason of the heavy monthly subscriptions and redemption money, &c., imposed on borrowers, in order to bring the society to an earlier termination, thus forgetting the fate of the hare, in the fable of the Hare and Tortoise, and that, as Dr. Johnson observes, "the great bulk of mankind must owe their affluence to small and gradual savings, resolutely keeping their expenses within their income." By such a course they might safely reach the desired haven, which I fear may not be the fortunate lot of many of the thousands of borrowers in societies so constituted.

My more immediate object in thus addressing you is, to observe that it appears to me such societies are, or may be, made the means to more important ends than the mere acquisition of house property, important as that assuredly is. Indeed, I cannot help thinking that they afford the means, if judiciously used, whereby the union of mind and action may be accomplished and maintained at comparatively and individually no expense, or other encroachment

on the already humble resources of the industrious classes, and thus raise them in the scale of citizenship and self-respect to an extent which to many might appear questionable, but which is, nevertheless, perfectly true, and beyond measure to be desired.

I am fully aware of my own inability to explain and illustrate the means by which this great work may be achieved; nevertheless, I will not be discouraged in the attempt, but hope to receive your encouragement and aid in my humble efforts, should they in any degree meet your approval, as being practicable or desirable.

My first wish is for the removal, if possible, of all stamp duties affecting building societies, and I trust we shall speedily have petitions from all parts of the kingdom to that effect.

It is proposed by one building association, recently established (after all the shares are allotted), to raise 4,000*l.* in shares of 1*l.*, to be paid up by weekly subscriptions of 6*d.* per share, to purchase or erect a suitable building, in which to conduct the affairs of the building society; to establish a literary and scientific institution, library, baths, &c.; affording also temperance refreshment, as in ordinary coffee-houses, on a scale of moderate charges, and thus engraft on it the industrious man's club-house.

To support the literary and scientific institution, 2*96d.* could be raised at 1*d.* per share per week, payable half-yearly, in advance.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

St. John's Wood, F. W. A. ALDER.

WESTMINSTER COURT OF SEWERS.

On Friday, the 6th inst., a numerous Court was held. The Hon. Frederick Byng was chosen chairman. The cash balance at the bankers was declared to be 14,585*l.* 13*s.* 8*d.* After some routine business, No. 9, on the business paper, was called on. 9. Mr. Leslie to move, in consequence of the resolution passed on the 16th January, 1846, "that it is not expedient to invite candidates to apply for the office of surveyor until a trial shall have been made of the fitness of Mr. Phillips for that office, whose form of Sewer has been adopted by the Court," that Mr. Phillips' appointment be made, as chief surveyor, upon trial for six months, at a salary of 250*l.* per annum.

Our limits prevent us, at this moment, from giving more than the unexpected result of the division.

For Mr. Phillips' appointment upon trial for six months, 14:—Messrs. Leslie, Unwin, R. Gunter, Marriott, Cumberlege, Fuller, Wilmoth, B. E. Hall, Wood, Hon. P. P. Bouverie, John Gunter, John Branscombe, John Bidwell, Hon. F. Byng. Against it 16:—Messrs. Le Breton, Kendall, F. Grace, Thomas Allason, E. Willoughby, W. Perry, W. L. Donaldson, J. H. Johnston, George Gutch, Robert Cantwell, W. Hawkes, George Knight, W. Leverton, L. Bathurst, E. Page Clowser, Thomas Moss.

It was then ordered that a special Court should be held on Friday, the 13th instant, at one o'clock precisely, for the following business:—

1. To rescind the following order of Court of the 16th January, 1846:—"That it is not expedient to invite candidates to apply for the office of surveyor until a trial shall have been made of the fitness of Mr. Phillips for that office, whose form of sewer has been adopted by the Court."

2. To take such steps as shall be necessary for the appointment of a chief surveyor and drawing clerk. The salaries, &c., to be determined upon.

An able report from Mr. Phillips was then read, pursuant to an order of Court of the same 16th of January, on the state of the sewers and sewerage in Stafford-street, Stephen-street, and vicinity, with accompanying plans, sections, and estimates, and the Court ordered the report to be printed, with lithographs of the plan and sections, and to be immediately distributed to the commissioners.

The proceedings of the commissioners are quite beyond our comprehension; they seem really to be doing all in their power to weaken public confidence in them. On the sixteenth of last month they gravely discussed the question, and decided that it is not expedient to

invite candidates for the office of surveyor until a trial be made of Mr. Phillips. On the sixth of the present month they refuse to allow him this trial, and notice is given for the thirteenth, of a motion to rescind the previous order, proceedings, as we venture very respectfully to suggest, in no way calculated to make their decisions respected. As regards Mr. Phillips, we much fear that his candour and straightforward conduct (apparently, perhaps, in opposition to the views of his superiors), have created a personal feeling against him in the minds of some of the commissioners. We sincerely trust they will on consideration put this entirely on one side, and be guided in their decision solely by the evidence they have before them of his fitness for the office.

New Books.

The History and Antiquities of Brentford, Ealing, and Chiswick, interspersed with Biographical Notices of Illustrious and Eminent persons who have been born, or have resided there during the three preceding centuries. By THOMAS FAULKNER. 8vo. Nichols and Son, 1845.

This volume contains notices and accounts of many persons and objects which the architect, the builder, and the general reader cannot fail to be interested in. Mr. Faulkner has long been known as a diligent labourer in topographical literature, having previously published histories of Chelsea, Hammersmith, Fulham, &c., and has at length brought out the above respectable volume, detailing and putting on record much valuable and curious matter respecting the very interesting parishes named. It is rather singular that the county of Middlesex, in which the metropolis is seated, has never yet had its local historian, though the adjoining and surrounding counties of Kent, Surrey, Essex and Hertford have each and all been very copiously elucidated by Hasted and others; by Manning and Bray, and by Brayley; by Morant, and by Chauncey, and by Clutterbuck. Hence we hail with satisfaction, every new work that tends to furnish original information on any parish or district of the metropolitan county.

Brentford is noted in historic, dramatic, and electioneering annals; and relative to it we find, in the volume before us, several curious notices. In the Saxon times, a noted battle was fought there between Edmund Ironside and the Danes, when the former was traitorously murdered by his brother-in-law, Edric Streone. In the time of King Henry VI., a chapter of the order of the garter was held at the Lion Inn, in this town. Six Protestants were burned at the stake here in 1558.

The civil, or rather barbarous, wars of the seventeenth century have left records of some of their conflicts and murderings in connection with this town. In November, 1642, several successive conflicts took place here between the royal and the parliamentary armies and rabble, in which the most revolting scenes of murder, rapine, burning, plundering, and blaspheming occurred. These events serve to mark the features of the respective times.

If Ealing offers but few objects of an historical nature, we shall find that paucity amply compensated in Chiswick, which abounds with topographical and biographical interest. In this parish there are many persons and things to detain and attract the attention of the reader and visitor. Belonging to, and either natives of, or buried here, we recognize the names of Sir Stephen Fox, Earl of Burlington, the Duke of Devonshire, Duchess of Devonshire, and branches of that family; Hogarth, Sharp the engraver, Henry Neele, De Louthembourg, and others.

The illustrations are hardly so good as they should have been.

Statistics and Calculations essentially necessary to persons connected with Railways or Canals. By SAMUEL SALT; Bradshaw and Blacklock, Fleet-street, 1845.

A very valuable set of tables, almost indispensably necessary to parties connected with railways and the carrying trade. Good advice, in the shape of mottoes, is plentifully interspersed. The first of them is well worth repetition—

"Take pleasure in your business, and it will become your recreation."

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